

STATE LAND USE PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes

May 19, 2005

Meeting Location

Kahle Park Community Center
236 Kingsbury Grade
Stateline, Nevada

Members Present (Nine)

Terri Pereira, alt. for Churchill County
Larry Walsh, Douglas County
Barbara Ginoulas, Clark County
Sheri Eklund-Brown, Elko County
Brett Tyler, alt. for Storey County
Nancy Boland, Esmeralda County
Bill Whitney, Washoe County
Varlin Higbee, Lincoln County
Bill Diest, alt. for Humboldt County

Members Absent (Eight)

Roger Mancebo, Pershing County-Chair
David Fulstone, Lyon County-Vice Chair
Pete Livermore, Carson City
Sheldon Bass, Nye County
Michael Mears, Eureka County
Mickey Yarbrow, Lander County
White Pine County
Mineral County

Others Present

Pamela Wilcox, NV Division of State Lands, afternoon
Jim Lawrence, NV Division of State Lands, morning
Skip Canfield, AICP, Division of State Lands
Clinton Wertz, NV Division of State Lands
Kevin Hill, NV Division of State Lands
Charlie Donohue, NV Division of State Lands

Edward James, Southern NV Regional Planning Commission
Dick Young, interested party
Heather Bovat, Douglas County
Ed Smith, UNR Cooperative Extension

CALL TO ORDER

In the absence of the Chairperson Mancebo and Vice-Chair Fulstone, Sheri Eklund-Brown of Elko County called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

Self-introductions were made by all audience and council members present.

Prior to approving the draft minutes for the January 20, 2005 SLUPAC meeting, **Ms. Eklund-Brown** asked if there were any proposed changes or comments. **Sheri Eklund-Brown** also mentioned minor changes that she had submitted earlier by email to **Clint Wertz** be included in the revised minutes. **Mr. Wertz** confirmed these changes and referred to 2 pink sheets included in the members packets that outlined the proposed changes submitted by both **Ms. Eklund-Brown** and Sheldon Bass of Nye County. Changes submitted by Mr. Bass were read aloud to the council. **Brett Tyler** of Storey County motioned to approve the minutes with changes which was seconded by **Ms. Eklund-Brown**. The motion was approved by an affirmative vote of all members present.

AGENCY REPORT

In the absence of **Pamela Wilcox, Jim Lawrence**, Deputy Administrator of the Division of State Lands gave an update to the council on the latest events for the division. Three items were mentioned by **Mr. Lawrence** including the continuance of Lake Tahoe EIP funding by the legislature, ongoing Question One program status and the planned move to a new lease-purchase building by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (including State Lands) on Stewart Street in Carson City. **Mr. Lawrence** thanked all those present for attending.

Skip Canfield presented the State Land Use Planning Agency report with a special emphasis on the Statewide Public Policy Plan Update. **Mr. Canfield** gave a brief description of the function of the agency which includes a federal lands planning program and a technical assistance program which offers free planning services to Nevada's counties. He described ongoing efforts of the agency for both local planning and federal land management issues.

- Nevada Division of State Lands has been involved with the statewide public land policy plan update. **Mr. Canfield** stated he had completed an in-house draft of the statewide plan and had also completed a local Public Land Policy Plan for Lander County. In addition he stated that these efforts were occurring concurrently with local public land policy plans updates in Elko, White Pine, Eureka and most recently Esmeralda County. He has had ongoing meetings with various Public Land Use Advisory Councils (PLUACS).
- **Mr. Canfield** described his role as public lands planner for the state to ensure that both the state and counties have a local voice in decision making on federally managed lands in Nevada. Through applications received in the statewide clearinghouse he comments on many proposed actions on public lands. He stressed the importance for counties to adopt and updated public lands policy plan to ensure consultation by the Bureau of Land Management and

the USDA Forest Service. He stated that the statewide plan contains about 23 resource elements related to uses on public lands. **Mr. Canfield** then read from the federal requirements that outline the duties of the federal land managers and consultation with local governments. He reiterated that the Public Land Policy Plans give the counties a voice in the process and that consultation to local plans is required by both FLPMA and NEPA. Most important is that counties update their local plans to set expectations regarding emerging issues such as inter-basin water transfers, federal land acts and other large scale projects such as energy development. **Mr. Canfield** said he planned to submit the draft document after in-house review to the clearinghouse by the end of June 05 and public meetings would occur statewide in August 05.

- **Mr. Canfield** went on to describe his role on the Resource Advisory Council, a BLM sponsored group to discuss public lands issues regionally. Another area of involvement was his role commenting on behalf of the state regional Resource Management Plans. Upcoming projects of interest include a proposed coal burning power plant near Gerlach. This project would use large amounts of water and likely decrease the air quality for Washoe County. A Biomass facility has been proposed and approved in Carson City. The facility would create energy for the Northern Nevada Correctional Facility and reduce the Biomass waste stream to be created from Sierra Front urban interface forest thinning operations. The final issues of importance was the issuing of the new USFS "Road-less Rule" which leaves more discretion at a local level than the Clinton Administration era ruling had done.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Clint Wertz, Land Use Planner for the State Land Use Planning Agency presented an overview of the new bills related to planning. He stated that the new "Laws Related to Planning" books would likely be available by late summer early fall for distribution. In the interim he stated that a legislative update would be posted after the session to alert planners across Nevada to any new changes made by the legislature. A 13 page written summary was presented to all members and the audience along with a blue and green sheet that listed each set of bills as to their house of origin and their current status. Several of the bills were highlighted by **Mr. Wertz**.

Multiple	Several bills related to changes to open meeting laws
SB 52	A bill to increase penalties for and status of code enforcement violations
SB 70	Broadens the authority of the Legislative Committee on Public Lands
SB 363	A bill requiring stricter standards for manufactured housing
SB 365	Created a framework to accept federal funding for GIS mapping efforts
SB 424	Changes to abandoned vehicle laws
AB 74	Would have allowed the creation of LIDS for maintenance projects
AB 125	Changes to filing of tentative land division maps to Public Utility Commission
AB 143	Changes to limit the use eminent domain laws for redevelopment projects
AB 165	Clarifies limitations on the granting of continuances for applicants
AB 283	Esmeralda County State Park Proposal near Monte Christo formation
AB 312	Require public land sales by public auction as opposed to sealed bids
AB 340	Requires local govt to restrict the locations of payday loan operations

Questions regarding the Public Land Policy Plans arose after **Mr. Wertz's** discussion regarding various topics. **Terri Pereira** of Churchill County inquired if the Department of Defense would be included in the round of reviews of the statewide plan. **Mr. Canfield** implied that all federal land managers in Nevada are part of the Clearinghouse system and would have opportunity for contact.

Bill Whitney asked about the weight of the Public Land Policy Plans. He wasn't even sure if the county had one in place. **Mr. Canfield** stated that it gave the county a voice in guiding federal lands policy that they would otherwise lack. He also stated that it could be an element of the Master Plan. **Mr. Canfield** then read the highlights of the consultation language for BLM citing the Federal Land Management Policy Management Act. In additional response to **Mr. Whitney's** question about the weight of the plans, **Mr. Canfield** stated that BLM is required to attempt to make Resource Management Plans (Master Plans) consistent with local land use plans.

Mr. Whitney responded that Washoe's public land policy plan is old and that the county has greatly improved relationships with federal land managers since it was adopted. **Mr. Canfield** said that federal land managers are required to seek out plans when updating their own RMP's.

Ms. Eklund- Brown said that the existing plan for Elko County needs updated and that it does not reflect the overall view of the county today. She said that the plan was very political due to sensitive issues related to the management of public lands and the diverse opinions at the time.

Mr. Canfield went on to say that the RAC (Resource Advisory Council) is another good way for counties to get involved in federal lands management and to stay current on issues. **Ms. Eklund- Brown** mentioned the challenge of counties having varying political views towards land management issues. She said that Elko has differences of opinion on federal land management between the Board of County Commissioners, Planning Commissioners and the PLUAC members.

Bret Tyler of Storey County inquired about when the public land policy plans are actually examined. **Mr. Canfield** responded that it was during the 60-90 day comment process on federal projects.

Nancy Boland of Esmeralda County commented on how her county was recently educated on the value of these plans. The next Resource Management Plan from BLM is due in 2007 and her county is trying to identify appropriate lands for disposal. She appreciated the effort made the state planning office and the congressional staffers to guide these discussions.

Mr. Canfield responded that updates to the RMP that benefit the counties are best made if the disposals lists are created and revised through the public land policy plan process.

Ms. Boland inquired about the time frame for the RMP process. **Mr. Canfield** responded that each district is on its own timeframe.

Bill Diest inquired about getting a copy of the Humboldt County list of parcels to be disposed.

Bill Whitney inquired if the Lander list was for large parcels. **Mr. Canfield** responded that many of the parcels were large and primarily requested for agricultural use. He also said that lists vary in terms of how dated they are.

Edward James of the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition inquired about the ability of a regional planning agency to get involved in the public land policy plans. **Mr. Canfield** stated he would look into this matter and that he did not see why regional groups with local consensus could not be involved. He further stated that Senate Bill 40 is what set this process into motion and a desire to improve the coordination between federal, state and local land managers. **Mr. Canfield** emphasized that local public land policy plans can simply be part of the county's overall master plan. Many counties already discuss issues related to PLPP's in their master plan. These include, grazing, public access, disposals, recreation and open space.

CLARK COUNTY GROWTH TASK FORCE FINDINGS

Barbara Ginoulis, Director of Planning Clark County

Ms. Ginoulis presented handouts of her powerpoint program to the audience. She began her program by outlining the growth of the Las Vegas Valley population in recent years. There has been a 120 percent increase in population since 1990 with peaks hitting 5000 new residents a month. Over 2 million people are expected by 2010. This expected growth has the potential of impacting the quality of life, stressing natural resources and the economy.

Ms. Ginoulis gave an overview of the process and stakeholders involved in the study. The Task Force was created in March of 2004 and findings were presented to the County Commissioners in April of 2005. It's stakeholders represented 17 different groups and its primary purpose was to address four main areas of concern including;

1. Urban Design
2. Natural Resource Conservation
3. Facility Adequacy, timing and planning
4. Coordinating with and integrating processes, plans, and functional assignments.

According to **Ms. Ginoulis**, many tools were used by the group for outreach including but not limited to a dedicated website, public service announcements, appearances at diverse group meetings, TV, print and air media, focus groups and open houses.

The findings of the study resulted in 21 strategies for growth management. Many of the 21 areas were interrelated and six priority topics emerged. They included:

1. Affordable and attainable Housing
2. Mixed use development
3. Infill development
4. Air Quality/Transportation
5. Timing of Infrastructure and services to population
6. Expanded mass transit linkages/support for Transit Oriented Development

Air Quality was mentioned as one of the most important priorities and improving transit options and services was seen as a key element for each of the six strategies. Within this category Ozone and the PM-10 particulate standard are the highest priorities.

Affordable and Attainable housing was the first of six areas **Ms. Ginoulas** covered. She emphasized the difference between the two types of housing and the need for more of both. She said most acutely there was a shortage of attainable housing. Classified as 81 to 121 % of the median area income paying no more than 30% for monthly housing costs, attainable housing supports many skilled and professional workers such as teachers, EMS personnel, whom are critical in a growing region. Condo conversions of rental units was a top concern for the affordable housing interests.

Mixed Use Development was the second strategy covered by **Ms. Ginoulas**. This type of development can provide housing near employment centers and create a vibrant community. This could be improved by revising current ordinances, policies and goals. **Ms. Ginoulas** illustrated the good coincidence of proposed mixed use centers as being along major road corridors that is experiencing rapid change.

Infill Development was presented as a means to improve the utility of existing undeveloped or underdeveloped parcels that are served by existing infrastructure. One method of encouraging infill was to allow the pre-approvals of developments in certain areas poised for growth and transit. Otherwise developers are heading outward for new development due to regulations and time delays of the permitting process.

Air Quality and Land Use linkages were the fourth area outlined by **Ms. Ginoulas**. She explained the need for detailed air quality plans for sub basins. The county has even considered adding the air quality element to its master plan so it can be better integrated with other planning areas. The Ivanpah Valley is likely to be the first airshed studied in detail due to plans to build a large commercial cargo airport there.

The fifth strategy area presented by **Ms. Ginoulas** was that of timing of infrastructure to growth. She stressed the importance of coordinating Capitol Improvement Plans with land use planning efforts. In addition she mentioned that a region can fare better through growth if its residents are more aware of development plans especially for public facilities and transportation.

The final strategy area was that of improved mass transit and the development of transit oriented development centers. She explained how mixed use densities require developed transit systems. Options for this might include light rail, fixed rail, bus parkways or other dedicated traffic systems. These corridors would follow Mixed Use Overlays.

Ms. Eklund-Brown asked about the composition of the task force. **Ms. Ginoulas** responded that 17 members range from government reps to interest groups and the members of the business community. The findings will be taken to each jurisdiction for adoptions including the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition.

Varlin Higbee asked about how to get interest in affordable housing in the current market. **Ms. Ginoulas** stated that various methods were discussed including inclusionary zoning, trust

funds for lands, federal land disposal for housing and housing trust fees for all new development.

Mr. Higbee mentioned that it may be hard to place affordable housing units with market rate housing and be accepted by the community. **Ms. Ginoulis** said that it was important to support all sectors of the housing market since each provides its own contribution to various sectors of the economy.

Larry Walsh of Douglas County stressed the importance of transit to get workers to employment centers and its possible consequences of highway congestion if this is not addressed.

Ms. Ginoulis also briefly discussed the availability of location efficient mortgages as a method of encouraging work-live locations.

Bill Whitney responded that for mixed use strategy to work planning laws needed changing.

Ms. Ginoulis replied that Clark County adopted specific overlays for the purposes of flexibility. The county matched existing transportation corridors with mixed use areas and prescriptive land designs. No master plan changes were done.

Mr. Whitney asked if county staff had taken the special designations to the county commissioners for approval and **Ms. Ginoulis** responded affirmatively and that the board of commissioners adopted the MUD's (Mixed Use Densities) in January of 2005 and created timelines for some of the other strategies.

Ms. Eklund-Brown commented on the price of housing as an obstacle to the market. **Bill Whitney** replied that many are moving further away from urban centers to find the house they want for an affordable right price.

Larry Walsh agreed that Douglas County is facing the same challenges from a lack of affordable housing in proximity to employment centers. **Bill Whitney** responded that land disposals of smaller public lands in holdings that are a management dilemma for agencies and close to employment could help in these matters.

Ms. Ginoulis questioned about the availability of public land for affordable housing projects when auctions sell land for 3 times the appraised values.

Ms. Eklund-Brown asked if there was any way for counties to get the right of first refusal at land auctions. **Larry Walsh** responded that the county must still use the auction route but that they can bid on the parcels themselves. **Ms. Ginoulis** added that the challenge is that the appraised price must be paid and many counties lack that sort of revenue.

Mr. Canfield asked about the mechanism to track lands that are sold with special affordable housing clauses. Was there a deed restriction, time-line, etc. in place? **Ms. Boland** asked if deferred taxation was an option to reduce property taxes to encourage affordable projects. **Heather Bovat** of Douglas County added that Douglas uses density bonuses for affordable housing units and has a Transfer of Development Rights program as well. That program places

restrictions for 15 years. **Mr. Canfield** then asked if the county has dedicated staff function to monitor the system. **Ms. Bovat** explained that the office uses tickler file system, to track and everyone is aware of what units are in the program. In terms of the application packets there is an examination of incomes, very similar to HUD's section 8 programs. Currently there are 72 units in Douglas County in this category.

Ms. Ginoulis mentioned that a challenge has been that planners have focused on affordable housing while attainable housing has become a much larger issue.

The members briefly discussed several legislative issues.

Both Churchill and Esmeralda County opposes AB 466 which would require a local public body to make written determinations for the sale or lease of water rights.

Ms. Eklund-Brown stated that water rights are similar to private property rights and the discretion of their use should be left to the holders of the right.

Jim Lawrence provided brief comment on several bills including AB 143 which would limit the use of eminent domain powers by local government, AB 283 (a bill to create state park at the Monte Christo formation in Esmeralda County) and AB 312 that would have changed the requirements for the auction and appraisals of state lands.

Mr. Lawrence stated the agency was neutral on AB 283 due to concerns over the ability of State Parks to properly fund and manage new parklands in such a remote area. The agency was providing feedback on AB 143 and AB 312 due to land management concerns and the diversity of state lands currently held.

Terri Pereira commented that there could be a minimum threshold for requiring 2 appraisals.

Brett Tyler of Storey County said the proposed change to require public auction over sealed bids could reduce the public fears of back room deals by public bodies.

Mr. Wertz asked **Ms. Ginoulis** to comment on AB 425 (smart growth/mixed use land bill) before the legislature.

Ms. Ginoulis responded that current laws limit the ability of Clark County to enact more progressive measures to address rapid growth. She described how currently the county allows for non-conforming zone changes no sooner than 2 years after the 5 years master plan review cycle. She stated that conditions can change so quickly that allowing for these changes is viewed by many as a necessary flexibility. **Mr. Canfield** inquired in findings are made for these non-conforming zone changes to support the master plan. **Ms. Ginoulis** said they were not. **Mr. Canfield** inquired about whether or not the county has been challenged on this process since statute requires conformance between zoning and master plans. **Ms. Ginoulis** responded the county has not been challenged yet.

Ms. Eklund-Brown presented concerns over the property tax cap and the impacts to smaller groups such as GID's or redevelopment districts. She said it would be hard to determine tax rates and in the case of Elko County there are 4 incorporated cities in the county. This she said

is going to impact the county's funding levels. She also said that the trend is to pull away from GID's and start using special assessment districts to fund specific issues related to growth.

Ms. Eklund-Brown asked about the development proposals being floated for the Truckee River. **Mr. Whitney** responded that due to the overwhelming success of the whitewater park the city and county are advocating expanding the river park even further up and downstream.

Brett Tyler commented on the speed of the river right now due to high water for the winter's melt-off. **Varlin Higbee** said he was surprised at our prior meetings at how good the river looked and that it has really cleaned up the river.

Ms. Eklund-Brown asked the group about making resolutions on any of the legislative actions. **Ms. Boland** mentioned the water study bill. **Mr. Lawrence** and **Ms. Eklund-Brown** said they thought the bill had died. There was no further discussion towards a resolution on the current legislative bills.

COUNTY PLANNING ISSUES

Ms. Eklund-Brown asked for SLUPAC members to provide an update on their pertinent planning issues.

Varlin Higbee- Lincoln County

- Corridor studies have been completed and submitted to county commissioners for review
- The county needs to update its Master Plan to address potential growth of new areas as a result of proposed land disposals from the recently passed Lincoln County Lands' Bill
- Coyote Springs is still ongoing
- A scoping meeting for water is planned
- Improvement District Ordinance being developed

Larry Walsh- Douglas County

- A 10 year master plan update is in the works. There is considerable disparity in attitudes between no growth and growth advocates. Master Plan may simply be extended and not updated
- A recent conservation easement of 700 acres was assigned to protect farm land
- Douglas county has the 4th highest acreage protected through a TDR program in the nation
- There is currently 3,700 acres protected in TDR sending areas with a goal of 25,000 acres

Bill Diest- Humboldt County

- Housing starts have increased in county
- Demographer claims there is a decrease in population but county view differs
- Retirees from California are buying up homes in area

- According to assessment districts there 120 new permits for homes
- There have been discussions between the city and county for better development standards along the urban fringes
- There has been discussion about extending city water to county lands and requiring higher densities
- The county is a cooperating agency with BLM on the local RMP (Resource Management Plan) process. There is a desire for the disposal of federal lands and the use of 26 acres for a proposed rail spur
- The airport industrial park is adding 100 new jobs and is at 80% capacity

Barbara Ginoulas- Clark County

- The new dam crossing at Boulder Dam is spurring new development on the Arizona side and there are expected to be growth impacts on the Nevada side (Boulder City) as a result
- There is also concern over growth patterns in the Moapa Valley

Terri Pereira- alternate for Churchill County

- Churchill County is experiencing continued growth.
- There are 8 current tentative subdivisions for up to 2500 homes
- The Town of Hazen is updating their development codes
- The changes will include density changes from 6 to 3 units per acres
- Active Question One projects are proceeding
- Discussion over flood plain management

Bret Tyler - Storey County

- The proposed Wal-Mart distribution center is moving forward. Over 600 jobs would be created a result.
- Twenty eight new businesses have signed onto the new industrial park
- Virginia City is getting a new 3 story hotel with facilities that will enable meetings to be held there
- New homes in the Highlands are proposed on 10 acre parcels with stunning views and a price tag of up to \$1.5 million
- A new water system is in place in Lockwood/Rainbow Bend area meeting the new arsenic stds.
- There is potential to expand the Lockwood Landfill facility and concerns have been voiced over water supplies and groundwater
- Ongoing concerns about activities by Nature Conservancy along the river and weed controls
- Continuing work with US Army Corps of Engineers to address floodplain issues

Nancy Boland- Esmeralda County

- **Ms. Boland** thanked the state lands office for their assistance in recent meeting to discuss the development of a public land policy plan
- The Furnace Creek Rd. Closure through the White Mountains is ongoing (via Hwy. 264)

- The town of Gold Point has gained support from the Nevada delegation to perfect its patent through the Nevada Mining Townsite Conveyance Act
- Esmeralda County is disappointed that the bill to create Monte Cristo State Park failed. The county understood the reasons and planned to approach it next time to address concerns voiced by both State Parks and the legislature
- A large historic ranch "Oasis Ranch" was recently sold in the county and there is concern over its future use. A California businessman purchased the former Art Linkletter ranch for \$5 million, \$1500 per acre. It is located near the Palmetto Mountains and Lida. It contains some of the largest water rights in the county.
- Yucca Mountain rail corridor discussion have resulted in choosing a route to the west of the town of Goldfield due to mineral and water rights in the alternate location.

Bill Whitney, Washoe County

- The county is working on the sphere of influence project with Sparks and Storey County
- A 5 year update of the Master Plan is underway. Cities want more annexation ability, the counties are trying to plan for growth and there are multiple issues related to public lands
- A north valley water plan is being developed for the Fish Springs Valley. A draft EIS is at the printers
- The proposed Granite Fox coal power plant near Gerlach by Semptra Energy is facing scrutiny. The EIS for the plant is underway and at capacity it would generate 1450 Megawatts of power. The county's role is to issue a special use permit for the project.

Mr. Tyler asked why Gerlach would not be a suitable location for the plant referring to the limited impact on the area and low population.

Mr. Whitney asked the group about the connection of the Gerlach plant to the Frontier energy corridor. He continued by saying the major concerns of the special use permit would include; rail lines for the coal importation, the water usage of 16,000 acre ft. a year and air quality issues.

Ms. Pereira asked if this was the same project reborn under a different name.

Mr. Whitney stated it was formally called the Fish Lake project.

Mr. Tyler inquired with **Mr. Whitney** about the status of the Copper Canyon project east of Sparks. **Mr. Whitney** responded that it was approved by Sparks but there are still concerns over traffic problems. **Mr. Tyler** asked why the county does not connect from the east?

- Cabela's, a large sporting goods retailer out of Rawlins, Wyoming is proposing a mega store in Verdi near Boomtown. It could draw 4 million visitors annually according to similar studies at its other locations.

Ms. Eklund- Brown-Elko County

- A proposal is underway by Union Pacific railroad to construct a large inter-modal rail loading facility on county lands just east of the city. The land would be comprised of four parcels with a combined area of 1000 acres. The county would purchase the lands for over \$ 1.5 million, help develop the infrastructure for the land then sell of parcels to developers. The city has shown interest in annexing the same area which concerns the county.
- There has been widespread flooding northern portion of the state including Elko County. Several days after South Canyons letter of decision was posted several bridges washed out restricting access. The county has had a snowy winter and wet spring.
- The county was not granted cooperating agency status for the southern Nevada water authority importation plans from White Pine and Lincoln Counties. The map of the corridors comes right to the edge of the county. The county is working to gain involvement. Other counties also denied cooperating agency status were Nye and Eureka.
- There has been a lot of mining exploration in the north county.
- **Ms. Eklund-Brown** recently attended a Nevada Fire Safe Council meeting and was impressed with their presentation. The county has received help recently from Washoe County on updating their urban interface ordinance. **Ms. Eklund-Brown** also mentioned its interest in getting funds to develop a GIS system in the county.
- The county is trying find funds to improve the Tuscarora tavern. It was constructed in the 1870's and has undergone some work to stabilize it by SHPO.

The group recessed at lunch at 11:45.

QUESTION ONE CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM

Kevin Hill, Coordinator

Mr. Hill presented an overview of the Question One program status. Round 2 nominations were made with Round 3 applications being accepted. There are 7 categories of funding in the state lands portion of the \$200 million bond.

1. Habitat Conservation Plans
2. Open Space Plans
3. Land and Water Acquisitions
4. Urban Parks and Greenways
5. Recreational trails
6. Carson River Recreation and access projects
7. Lake Tahoe path system

Mr. Hill commented on the challenge of keeping funds available through each round through bond sales by anticipating the number of projects in the system either approved applied for or interested parties.

One category that has been limited in funding thus far was urban parks and greenbelts. The last of the bonds will be sold in 2008 so there is a schedule to keep based on the original wording of the bill.

To date there have 46 projects funded in 13 counties statewide totaling \$13 million. The exception to the funding thus far is the Lake Tahoe Path System which is being coordinated at a later date with other projects. Q-1 staff is trying to ensure that all counties benefit from the measure.

A question was posed by an unknown audience member regarding the availability of funding for Lake Tahoe stream projects. **Mr. Hill** responded that such a project would have to be funded primarily through a water quality program or SNPLMA funding.

Ms. Eklund-Brown inquired about the Panaca fairgrounds and Comstock cemetery receiving Q-1 funds. **Mr. Hill** responded that these were measures advocated by local legislators for specific reasons and that they used Q-1 funds but were not under the same scrutiny as others in the ranking process. He felt the strength of the program was the ranking process to ensure competitiveness and ultimately worthy projects.

LAKE TAHOE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Charlie Donohue, Program Coordinator

Mr. Donohue presented a summary of the EIP programs past history.

1. It was initiated by the summit between California and Nevada Governors in 1997 attended by the present and vice-president in attendance
2. Multiple groups pledged funds to save improve the lakes clarity through water quality EIP programs.
3. A total of \$908 million was promised with Nevada's share being \$82 million
4. NDOT has completed \$27 million in roadway improvement to address erosion control
5. There are 81 ongoing projects, 11 are long term and 17 have yet to be started.

Ms. Pereira inquired about the meaning of thresholds at the lake. She also asked about the impact of dog scat on water quality. **Mr. Donohue** replied it was a classification system for land development in the Tahoe basin based on underlying soils, slopes, vegetation, proximity to streams and other on site natural factors. He further stressed the importance of NDOT projects of \$27 million in the basin. Much of the erosion has occurred due to slope conditions along the highway system and that highway EIP's have been very successful. These projects have included fish passage projects, the replacement of steel bin-walls and slope stabilization projects.

Mr. Donohue fielded a question from an audience member Cindy about how the EIP list is prioritized by saying that the list is reviewed by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and they are the holders of the list. He also stated that Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act funds can also be applied for with certain projects.

Ms. Eklund-Brown inquired about projects at Tahoe that would help with wildfire. **Mr. Donohue** responded that wildfire mgt is crucial to the health of Lake Tahoe. In the event that catastrophic fires occurred in the basin it would set back years of efforts to improve the lakes water quality. Several projects in upland areas have focused on improving forest health and diversity through fuel removal. In addition avian species have increased in some of these areas.

Ms. Eklund-Brown asked about efforts on the California side of the lake. **Mr. Donohue** said that the California Tahoe Conservancy has played a crucial role in implementing projects on the California side.

Ms. Eklund-Brown further inquired about the drought conditions and the impacts on the lake. **Mr. Donohue** responded that Tahoe acts as a closed system and that any sediment produced in the basin stays in the basin. **Ms. Wilcox** commented that sediment conditions vary in the basin between wet and dry years. **Mr. Donohue** mentioned stepped up enforcement in the basin with fines possible up to \$5000 per day. **Ms. Eklund-Brown** asked if liens are used to recover damages. **Mr. Donohue** responded that before a property sale occurred BMP problems are caught and addressed.

NEVADA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL/LIVING WITH FIRE PROGRAM

Ed Smith

Mr. Smith and gave an overview of the formation of the NV Fire safe Council then presented the living with fire program. He said that his program focuses on fire prone areas and resulted from the many fires of the 1990's, increased residential uses in the urban interface and a conference "Turn talk into Fire" that was formulated by former Governor Richard Bryan.

The Nevada Fire Safe Council is non-profit group that helps organize grass-roots efforts in neighborhoods to plan for and prevent damage from wildfires. At first the structure for the group was created with no dedicated funding source. Elwood Miller was hired as the first Executive Director. The first funds were received in 2002 (\$4.5 million) and since then over 30 chapters have been created around the state. Recent additions have included the Nevada insurance industry who have an active interest in reducing loss from wildland fires.

There are now 18 members statewide with many wildifere assessment projects underway. Examples of fire safe improvement include; fire resistant building materials, vegetation management and other mitigation projects. The state council has also received a boost from the National Fire plan in terms of funding and other resources that will help fuels management on private property. According to a recent survey by Resource Concepts, 20 communities have been ranked with extreme characteristics with regard to fire danger.

After the slide show several questions emerged. **Ms. Pereira** asked about the involvement of the department of Defense due to recent fires near Fallon. Ms. Cindy asked if there were any impending insurance rate changes due to fire prone locations/poor maintenance or building improper materials? **Mr. Smith** answered that the insurance industry is starting to require changes to building materials and rates have been raised dramatically in some fire prone areas. He also added that the 2 highest priority areas in Nevada are Mt. Charleston and Incline Village.

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, CORRIDOR LANDSCAPING PROGRAM

Lucy-Joyce Mendive NDOT, Landscape Architect, **Mark Hoversten**, Professor at UNLV

Ms. Mendive presented a brief history of the corridor program. She attributed much of the early momentum to Frankie Sue Del Papa. NDOT has not had the best reputation in terms of highway aesthetics. **Ms. Mendive** mentioned the corridor program's effort to curb this and consider design and landscaping more carefully throughout the project rather than as an after thought. She also emphasized the use of partnerships to develop the program. NDOT is trying to implement these projects with local governments to consider local heritage, draught resistance plants and regionally appropriate design. **Ms. Mendive** said there were five different funding strategies with different match requirements. A new program area this year is the retrofitting option for existing facilities. Corridor plans for Interstate 15 and 80 are almost complete. Plans will be implemented with either new construction or expansion of existing facilities.

Mr. Whitney inquired about the Reno freeways new mountain designs. **Ms. Mendive** commented on the various options that will be available in the future for hardscape designs.

Ms. Mendive went on by describing the matching funds' programs. Approximately \$2 million will be allocated annually with a maximum of \$500K per project. **Ms. Wilcox** asked about the funding match and **Ms. Mendive** replied that it is was a 50% match. Another program that was presented was for transportation art. The key for this program is that the art must be designed to work at the posted speeds and gain local support for the actual artists.

Mark Hoversten, professor from UNLV then introduced himself. He emphasized his role to serve the public. He gave an overview of the planning and landscape architecture program at UNLV. He explained how the outreach component was added to the UNLV program through his effort. **Mr. Hoversten** mentioned how the corridor planning group has been traveling around to gain support for continued projects. He gave examples of ongoing projects in Dayton, Elko and Minden. He also mentioned other groups that have assisted including the Desert Research Institute, UNR and local governments.

Ms. Wilcox asked how staff time is accounted for. **Mr. Hoversten** said that small grants cover many of the costs for student time and supplies. He also mentioned the expense of managing small grants. He introduced the concept of the Nevada Planning and Design Center as a tool to address this issue.

Ms. Eklund-Brown commented on how UNLV provided the research and development for their project. **Ms. Eklund-Brown** continued by asking how the program works on the ground. **Mr. Hoversten** explained that the terms are negotiated with the local govt. Students are assigned to certain projects, classes and curriculum are coordinated to meet the needs of students and the projects and that a more formal internship is being developed.

Ms. Bovat of Douglas County asked if the partnership can assist with planning related tasks. **Mr. Hoversten** replied that it would be possible based on matching similar needs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

No further comments were made.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There was no further discussion or recommendations made by the Council on any previous items that were presented.

FUTURE MEETING CONSIDERATIONS

There was a brief mention about the closing legislative session in 3 weeks. Topics of interest for a following meeting included; annexations, GIS, session update, sphere of influence planning, as well as an overview of SLUPAC and its functions.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Clint Wertz, Land Use Planner
Meeting Recorder

These minutes should be considered draft minutes pending their approval at a future meeting of the State Land Use Planning Advisory Council. Corrections and changes could be made before approval.

The meeting was tape-recorded. Anyone wishing to listen to the tapes may call (775) 684-2731 for an appointment. The tapes will be retained for three years.